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Newark, N. J. 07102

October 25, 2004

Walter Kreher, Director  
Multifamily Program Center  
US Dept. HUD  
One Newark Center - 13th FL  
Newark, N. J. 07102

Dear Mr. Kreher:

In response to your letter of October 19th, I can see no reason for you or your staff to treat any visitor to your office in a hostile manner. Perhaps the questions I asked, namely 'why the HUD office did not mandate that Kenneth Pagano recognize our tenants association as a legitimate tenant association', and 'why we were not allowed to use our community room'. This is when you advised me that the Swinging Seniors had been given authorization from Washington to be the only association that would be recognized by Kenneth Pagano. We organized in 2001 and it wasn't until 2004 that we were allowed to use the community room for our meetings. Furthermore, we had invited the Swinging Seniors to discuss our working together to resolve the problems that we were encountering. They did not even show up to the meeting that Kenneth Pagano and his lawyer arranged.

I have no knowledge of the exact relationship that you have with Frank Hutchins. I merely sent him copies of the letters that I had written to you and your Washington Office.

There you go with "...the only complaints that I ever receive are from you and one other person who resides there." As far as you visiting Essex Plaza what is the basis, you might consider it one of the premier projects in the City of Newark. Just because your employees confirm that no problems exist, that doesn't mean that there are no problems. There are many problems with the conditions of the apartments at 1060. Tenants are afraid to say anything because management will have them evicted on some trumped up charges. Our association has prevented the eviction of many tenants that were being taken to court for as little as \$1.50. I can prove this.

Just in passing, why is Essex Plaza Mgt. painting and putting new wall paper on the lobby walls. Is this so when the inspectors visit they will look around and report that all is well because the walls are painted? The elevators haven't been inspected since 1993. They have dropped several floors and people have been hurt. Do these records go to the head office?

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Kreher

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I am not calling another person to get the same answers that you give us. Obviously, HUD is not interested in whether the tenants are being treated fairly, but only that they don't have to deal directly with the problems that are rampant in these facilities.

If it hadn't be for the fact that I was with Ms. Jones I would never have gotten to see you. Why do we have to meet with HUD one on one? Your organization is huge and our problems are enormous. Just look at Brick Towers. That situation is a travesty. So many people have been victimized throughout the country and your organization has failed us miserably.

In fact, I'm sending all this correspondence to the people you have mentioned. in hopes that someone will stop this assault on the residents of subsidized housing.

Yours Truly,

Lorraine Lavender

cc:HUD Inspector General  
Francis Thomas, NJHMFA  
Constance Lukatos, HUD Director  
Frank Hutchins HUD Tenant Coalition ✓